

from the University of Texas at El Paso in 1986. He firmly believes that "a positive and caring classroom strengthens a child's self-esteem and self worth." He has added that this "knits all [his] philosophies of teaching and learning together."

Mr. Antonio A. Fierro is part of a larger history of educational excellence in El Paso. I am proud to note that to date El Paso area educators have been chosen as Texas Teachers of the Year nine times. The National Teacher of the Year Program began in 1952 and continues as the oldest, most prestigious national honors program that focuses public attention on excellence in teaching.

I am proud of the work of our teachers, and I am committed to ensuring that education remains a top priority in this Congress.

#### EARMARK DISCLOSURE

### HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, I hereby submit for the Congressional Record the following disclosure on earmarks that were included in H.R. 1105:

Requesting Member: Congressman RODNEY ALEXANDER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Interior, U.S. Geological Survey

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Tulane University

Address of Requesting Entity: 6823 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118

Description of Request: The Long-term Estuary Assessment Group (LEAG) comprises scientific researchers based at Tulane, Xavier, Nicholls State, and LUMCON working together to provide accurate scientific and technological advances needed to improve the knowledge of the physical, chemical, geological, biological, and cultural baseline conditions in the coastal Louisiana ecosystem and related natural and built assets. LEAG requests funding support to transition its productive six years of investigation and team building to a level that allows USGS and other local, state and Federal agency managers to make the best possible decisions in support of: (1) implementing Louisiana Coastal Restoration and Hurricane protection projects authorized by the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2007 and other Federal acts; (2) the Louisiana Coastal Area, Section 7006, Construction, Science and Technology Program established by WRDA 2007; and, (3) science and engineering support for the State of Louisiana's master plan for coastal restoration and hurricane protection. This revised Coastal Consortium project proposes that LEAG and other existing coastal restoration academic, industry, and public partners provide the joint leadership to establish and coordinate a new entity, the Consortium for Coastal Restoration consisting of the LEAG partners, scientists from the USGS, Louisiana State University (LSU), University of Louisiana in Lafayette (ULL), University of New Orleans (UNO), Rand Corporation investigators, engineers from key local engineering companies, and policy groups such as the Tulane Institute of Water Policy and Law, and the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary

Program. Key investigators at other universities such as UNO and LSU will also be invited to join a full partnership consortium. The overall strength and capacity of the Consortium for Coastal Restoration will make it a viable partner with other state and Federal entities [including the USGS National Wetland Research Center (NWRC) and the Coastal Restoration, and Enhancement for Science and Technology (CREST) consortium] to make the best possible development and implementation decisions for WRDA 2007 and other coastal restoration/protection authorities for Louisiana and the surrounding region. With the enactment of WRDA 2007, and other Federal authorizations, it is imperative that "stove-pipe" coastal restoration/protection policy, implementation, and projects be replaced by a comprehensive, fully coordinated team/partnership consortium to effectively and correctly implement WRDA 2007 and other Federal authorizations for Louisiana coastal restoration and protection. The aim of this alliance is to create a cooperative science, engineering, and technology program to help policymakers, planners and coastal resource managers use the latest objective information on the built and natural environment to ensure sustainable and productive coastal habitats and communities.

Requesting Member: Congressman RODNEY ALEXANDER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Energy and Water, Corps of Engineers, Construction

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Corps of Engineers

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 60267 New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Description of Request: East Baton Rouge Flood Control project encompasses the major streams of East Baton Rouge Parish and the Amite River Basin. Authorization: WRDA 1996, Sec. 101(a)(21); WRDA 2007, Sec. 5005e(30) FY08 Funding: \$951,000.

Requesting Member: Congressman RODNEY ALEXANDER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Energy and Water, Corps of Engineers, Construction

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 80 Vicksburg, MS 39181

Description of Request: A reconnaissance level general reevaluation study is needed to determine whether authorized cutoffs on the Ouachita River are economically feasible, environmentally sustainable, and publicly acceptable. Statutory Authorization for requested project: Senate Document Numbered 117, Eighty-first Congress as amended. Significant problems with navigation on the Ouachita River have been experienced in recent years because authorized cut-offs were never constructed and the existing radius of bend ways above Monroe, LA is too small for tows to make the turns without "light loading" of barges. Waterway users indicate that resulting increases in transportation costs are affecting production costs and the ability to maintain adequate raw material supplies.

Requesting Member: Congressman RODNEY ALEXANDER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Financial Services, SBA

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Greater North Louisiana Community Development Corporation

Address of Requesting Entity: 103 Fourth Street, Jonesboro, LA 71251

Description of Request: A The primary goals of the Greater North Louisiana Community Development Corporation are to: a) stimulate creation, attraction, retention and expansion of business and industry in North Louisiana, b) provide access to financial capital, c) promote the growth of "homegrown" business using technology to provide rural isolated entrepreneurs with access to information, technical assistance, professional services and expertise. The Rural U.S. is home to over 56 million Americans who live in some of the country's poorest regions. As nationally publicized by all mediums, the state of Louisiana is involved in a long-running battle to find solutions to poverty and combating literacy (see attachments A & B—GNLCDC Service Area Demographics and Maps). The primary employers in the targeted parishes are light manufacturing companies. It is expected that manufacturing jobs will continue to decline in the 21st Century, therefore diversification is critical to the stimulation and survival of rural communities. The "No Child Left Behind" initiative must be extended to include educational opportunities to all citizens in under represented and impoverished areas, thus giving a sense of hope and empowerment to reach beyond the grips of despair and hopelessness. The GNLCDC serves as a door opener and an opportunity where currently none exists.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE YWCA EL PASO DEL NORTE REGION'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, today I wish to recognize the 100th anniversary of the YWCA's El Paso del Norte Region. Since April 8, 1909, this exemplary organization has helped many women and their families reach their fullest potential.

In its 100 years of service to the region, the YWCA El Paso del Norte exemplifies the positive impact volunteerism and service to others can have on a community. For years, the YWCA has played a major role in addressing the various socioeconomic challenges faced by women and minorities throughout our Nation. The personal experiences of many individuals in my district show how our local YWCA has brought to life its mission of empowering women and their families as well as promoting equal opportunities for all.

Every year, the lives of more than 62,000 people in the 17 counties of west Texas and southern New Mexico are touched by the volunteers and staff of the YWCA El Paso del Norte Region. Our local chapter places a great value on building up and strengthening families by providing women of all ages and socioeconomic backgrounds with the support they need. Using a holistic approach, the services and programs of the YWCA El Paso del Norte Region promote the overall well-being of women and their families in order to provide opportunities for women to help themselves and each other. This unique environment allows women and girls from all walks of life to come together to develop life skills, as well as